Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

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A contract with sustainable goals

hen it comes to taking action toward sustainability. some people may ask, "Why bother?" At INL, sustainability means balancing the challenges of performing innovative research while improving energy efficiency, being responsible environmental stewards, conserving natural resources and supporting our local economy and community. While this balance can require extra effort, one reason we strive for a sustainable laboratory is that our contract between the Department of Energy and Battelle Energy Alliance reflects a commitment to sustainability.

Our role as a DOE national laboratory requires us to live up to goals in Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy and Transportation Management." DOE Orders 430.2B and 450.1A reflect many of the requirements found in the executive order and have additional goals for Environmental

Management Systems, renewable onsite energy production, metering, auditing, recycling and sustainable design. Current legislation also requires carbon footprint and subsequent reductions, cap and trade, and carbon credits.

The Sustainable INL Program has incorporated

Lastly, petroleum-based fuels should be reduced by 2 percent each year, for a total 20 percent reduction by FY 2015, and alternative fuels use should increase by 10 percent each year, for a total 100 percent increase by FY 2015. INL currently uses ethanol and biodiesel (E-85 and B20) as alternative fuels.

INL's role as a Battelle-

"[Sustainability] depends on widespread understanding of the critical relationships between people and their environment and the will to make necessary changes."
-Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Council

these orders into some focus areas, including energy consumption, water consumption, petroleumbased fuel consumption and alternative fuel use.

Energy consumption should be reduced by 3 percent each year, for a total 30 percent reduction by FY 2015. This reduction will largely be in our predominant energy use: electricity. Second, water consumption should be reduced by 2 percent each year, for a total 16 percent reduction by FY 2015. managed laboratory also brings a commitment to sustainability. Battelle has stated that it "will be the green science leader" and will gather data from all Battelle entities to publish an annual sustainability report communicating the sustainability strategy and progress in reaching objectives.

Read next month's issue to find out how your role as an INL employee is helping the laboratory meet some of these sustainability goals.

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